

Poultry Production Summary, 2003

By Stephen M. Habets

The combined value of Pennsylvania's poultry production from broilers, eggs and turkeys, plus the value of chicken sales in 2003, was \$719.9 million, a 21 percent increase from 2002. Of the combined total, 51 percent was from egg production, 34 percent from broiler production, 14 percent from turkey production, and less than 1 percent was from the sale of other chickens.

Inventory of all chickens, excluding broilers, on December 1, 2003, was 29.4 million. Hens and pullets of laying age numbered 23.4 million, 3 percent below the previous year. Hens and pullets of laying age included 14.2 million hens one year old and over and 9.2 million pullets of laying age. Pullets not of laying age totaled 5.9 million on December 1. Pullets not of laying age included 2.2 million pullets, 3 months old and older, and 3.7 million under 3 months of age. Other chickens numbered 93,000. Total value of chicken inventory on December 1, 2003, was \$55.9 million. Pennsylvania ranked 4th in the United States for all chicken inventory on December 1, 2003.

Pennsylvania laying flocks produced 6.75 billion eggs from December 1, 2002, through November 30, 2003, up 4 percent from the previous year. Total value of egg production based on an average price received by producers during the year of 65.9 cents per dozen for all eggs was \$370.9 million, up 33 percent from the previous year. An average of 24.5 million hens in Commonwealth flocks laid an average of 275 eggs each during the year. Pennsylvania ranked 3rd in egg production in 2003.

Broiler production from December 1, 2002, through November 30, 2003, was valued at \$247,284,000, up 9 percent from 2002. A total of 129.6 million broilers were produced during the year. Average live weight of broilers produced was 5.3 pounds per bird, for a total production of 686,900,000 pounds. The average price received per pound for live broilers was 36.0 cents. Pennsylvania ranked 14th in number of broilers produced in 2003.

Turkey producers raised 9.5 million poults during 2003, compared with 9.9 million produced in 2002. Producers received an average of 47.0 cents per pound live weight for turkeys in 2003. Total value of turkey production from December 1, 2002, through November 30, 2003, was \$101.4 million. Pennsylvania ranked 9th in number of turkeys produced in 2003.

Commercial hatcheries hatched nearly 150.8 million broiler-type chicks during 2003, down 2 percent from the previous year. Egg-type chicks hatched totaled 53.4 million for 2003, 4 percent more than in 2002. Pennsylvania ranked 3rd in egg-type chickens hatched and 13th in broiler-type chicks hatched.

Data in the following tables result from voluntary responses from Pennsylvania poultry producers and agri-businesses. Primary surveys used for these tables include the Weekly & Monthly Hatchery Reports, Monthly Turkey Hatchery Report, Monthly Chicken & Egg Survey, and Annual Turkeys Raised Inquiry. Additional data are obtained from Quarterly Agriculture Surveys and Acreage & Livestock Surveys conducted throughout 2003.

PA Chicken Inventory on Dec. 1 (excluding meat chickens)

